

Message Text

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14

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 OIC-04 STR-08 ABF-01 TRSE-00

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2085

INFO USUN NEW YORK 9784

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GENEVA 5474

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: GATT

SUBJ: GATT SECRETARIAT REMUNERATION

REF: GENEVA 5357

1. ISSUE OF DECLINING TOTAL REMUNERATION DUE TO SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES BASED ON DOLLARS OCCUPIED MUCH OF OCT 15 OPENING SESSION OF GATT COMMITTEE ON BUDGET AND FINANCE. GATT DIRECTOR GENERAL OLIVIER LONG GAVE STRONG AND LENGTHY DISCOURSE ON RESULTING HARDSHIPS FOR SECRETARIAT PERSONNEL, PLACING PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON RETIREMENT FUND AND ANNUITIES, WHICH NOT AFFECTED BY SUPPLEMENTAL ALLOWANCES. THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY EXTENDED VERBAL APPEAL BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SECRETARIAT'S STAFF ASSOCIATION, WHO SUPPLIED WRITTEN TEXT OF SPECIFIC PROPOSAL FOR ADJUSTMENT OF 1973 REMUNERATION.

2. STAFF ASSOCIATION PROPOSES THAT 300,000 SWISS FRANCS SAVED BY GATT ON SALARIES AND OTHER STAFF COMPENSATION IN 1973 BECAUSE OF CHANGES IN SWISS FRANC/ DOLLAR EXCHANGE RATE BE GIVEN TO THE STAFF IN SPECIAL ONE-TIME PAYMENT. PAYMENT WOULD BE DISTRIBUTED AMONG STAFF IN MANNER TO BE DETERMINED BY BUDGET COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL.

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3. WHILE STAFF ASSOCIATION PROBABLY RIGHT THAT STAFF HAS SUFFERED BECAUSE OF EXCHANGE RATE CHANGES EXACT EXTENT OF EFFECT ON STAFF UNCLEAR. PROPOSAL HAS BEEN MADE TOO LATE TO BE STUDIED IN DEPTH AND INVOLVES BASIC PRINCIPLE OF ADVISABILITY OR OTHERWISE OF RETROACTIVE COMPENSATION FOR EXCHANGE RATE LOSSES. MOST IMPORTANT, GATT PROBLEM IS NOT UNIQUE AND IS PRESUMABLY FACED BY ALL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA USING COMMUN UN SYSTEM.

4. LINE WE PROPOSE TAKE IN BUDGET COMMITTEE IS TO ACKNOWLEDGE GATT STAFF HAS PROBABLY SUFFERED SOME LOSS OF INCOME, REGRET SPECIFIC PROPOSAL FROM STAFF ASSOCIATION RECEIVED TOO LATE FOR GOVTS TO ANALYZE IMPLICATIONS AND TAKE POSITION THIS WEEK, STRESS FACT THAT THIS PROBLEM COMMON TO ALL UN AGENCIES AND PRECEDENT OF ACTION CONCERNING GATT SEC ALONE COULD HAVE VERY LARGE FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS, AND ACCORDINGLY PROBLEM SHOULD PROPERLY BE DEALT WITH AT UN LEVEL IN ACABQ AND GA COMMITTEE 5.
BASSIN

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